

C O P Y

By W. P. Studdert

PACIFIC AMERICAN FISHERIES

South Bellingham, Washington

King Cove, 8/17/'23.

My dear Rich:

We returned yesterday from Cold Bay. Seven streams that have lakes at their heads empty into the lagoon; another has its outlet on the north-east beach of the bay, but wind prevented us from landing on that shore.

The lakes vary in size from one mile around to five. Two of the streams drain two lakes, each. The shores of all the lakes are largely of gravel formation, and adaptable to spawning.

The condition of all of the streams, with the possible exception of one, is very bad. In some cases the sliding of the banks, and caving in of boulders, have made them virtually impossible of ascent for salmon. Two large lakes were entirely closed to fish by the spreading of their outlets over too wide an area; the outlet of another was rendered impassable by a barrier of ooze, composed of what I thought decayed vegetable matter, held by a dense growth of reeds for some distance on each side of where the stream left the lake.

We had shovels and a pick along and were able to do some effective work; but to make the spawning area that is available accessible would require three men at work for at least a month or six weeks. It is my opinion that the Cold Bay section can be developed into the most productive area in this district.

You will feel gratified to know that salmon continued to ascend the small stream we opened up on the beach at even a more rapid rate than twenty per five minutes. We, of course, opened it up in much better shape with the tools we had taken with us. I took some pictures of the fish ascending, collected at its mouth, etc.

Fish could not have gotten up that creek in its condition when we first came upon it except at a short interval during extreme high tides. If you recall, it was approximately high water on an ordinary tide when we were there.

In following the stream to the lake I saw upwards of two hundred fish, which would represent the tail end of the procession that had passed up on the previous tide; it being dead low water when I left the beach. A flat extends offshore from that point for half a mile or more.

On the first day when Herrold and I followed the stream to the lake we didn't see a single salmon; there were from twelve to twenty fish seen in the lake.

Upon reaching the lake on the last trip we found it literally filled with fish: I would not attempt an estimate of the number, but one could see schools of salmon wherever he looked. That lake is connected to a larger

one, having about four miles or more of shoreline, by a small creek that we found blocked. We opened it up so that the fish could pass through.

I saw considerable salmon all over the lagoon; and will send you sketches and data in detail later. This note is hastily written to catch the Catherine which sails shortly.

I have received in the last mail three or four bales of blanks labelled "Monthly Report of Vessels." Not having been forewarned regarding these I have no data and can only approximate the information called for. Upon close scrutiny I find that such great oversights have actually occurred as: Amount of lubricating oil used while engine was in reverse; amount of fuel burned in heaving up anchor, also revolutions gotten out of winch per gallon; amount of lubricating oil used to oil steering wheel in pilot house; frequency of firing cook stove, capacity of coal shovel, number of B. T. Units per average shovel full; and hours stove burned in forecastle while crew slept, with radiation per hour gotten out of smoke stack.

Try to remember to send me a set of the pictures you took during the summer; I shall do likewise by you.

Sincerely,

Bill.

P. S. In my haste I all but forgot to tell you there is a lake at the head of Mortenson's Lagoon that has a shore line of from ten to twelve miles with a good portion of it suitable gravel.

Dimitrie's Lagoon has no lake at its head but a stream that I imagine is similar to that in Svenson's Lagoon. Easterly weather forced us off the beach before we could investigate the place.

I believe both places have been ruthlessly fished and in my mind some special work ought to be done in the Cold Bay section next year. I shall send you some ideas for handling it that I have in mind.

Bill.

ALASKA

DEC 4 - 1923

FISHERIES

Extract from a report of a trip of inspection in the Alaska Peninsula Reservation, 1923, by Dennis Winn.

August 13. "Arrived Kupreanof Harbor 8:30 A.M. and P. A. F. launch just arrived with lumber. She left Squaw Harbor about two hours ahead of "Eider". Proceeded with Eider to Ivanhof Bay, arriving about 10:30 A.M. Went ashore in dory with Mr. Bradford of the P. A. F. also Dr. Gilbert and Mr. Rich to examine the two creeks at head of bay.

Each creek is small and apparently about four to five miles long but did not go up creek over $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Very few fish at mouth of creek and no jumping. Tide was ebb on arrival. Later on when flood, noticed a few jumping outside.

First creek small - from 20' to 30' wide with light shallow flow. Rich came down this stream and noticed some chums and humps spawning well up stream. The main stream is about 40' wide and about 18" deep. There were a fair run of salmon here and several pools holding from 2 to 3,000 fish mostly chums. The percentage of pinks noted were small possibly a few hundred fish all told. Small schools of humps were usually noted at the mouth of some very small creeks and it was noticed that the most of the salmon ascending these small creeks were pinks. One such creek contained all pinks, about 75 fish. Estimated from 30,000 to 40,000 fish in the creek.

About 98% chums, 2% humps. 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % of possible capacity.

ALASKA

DEC 4 - 1923

FISHERIES

Extract from a report of a trip of inspection in the Alaska Peninsula Reservation, 1923, by Dennis Winn.

August 14. "Left 5:00 A.M. on the P.A.F. boat "Neptune" from Kuprianof Harbor for Humpback Bay, Perryville, Ivan Bay and Metrofornia Bay.

Humpback Bay, - #1.

Portage Creek, - Stream from 15' to 20' wide and runs back on flat for about 200 yards, and saw many humps in that distance but none above. (This off year). Bottom of creek course clean gravel perfectly suited for spawning and should be completely covered in good years its entire length. Beach hard fine sand. Estimate about 1,500 humps in stream. A few broke water outside mouth. Mostly chums and humps, and about 50% each in good years, we were told, with few silvers. About 50% possible capacity.

Humpback Bay, - #2.

A good appearing creek to right and small one to left. No fish in latter creek as per Dr. Gilbert.

The larger creek about 30' wide and extends back about 16 miles to the mountains. Meandered about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and saw about 25 humps and several schools of dolly varden trout aggregating about 2,000 fish.

This stream is trout infested and in small years nothing can possibly escape them, an easy proposition to clean them out each year. There is possibly some humps further up where more suitable gravel will attract the spawners, but these two creeks can be classed as nil in an off year. Reports humps only in these streams.

Perryville, - Three Star Point. -

This creek is galcier fed and runs back about two miles to a small lake. On occasion of our visit the water was thickly impregnated with loose shifting sand, coarse and fine, and continuously washing down to the bay. This shifting sand is from one foot to 18 inches deep on the creek bottom.

Proceeded up stream about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile but no fish noticed. Reported a small run of reds enter here and ascend to the lake and some spawn in a tributary creek to the main stream. My impression is that it would be a foolish fish that would ascend here. Possibilities of stream small; - 150' to 200' wide with numerous sand bars showing above present stage of water. (low)

Ivanof Creek, - Ivanof Bay.

This is one of the largest creeks with a good flow at low water. About 150' wide and the bottom of shifting sand and fine gravel. From 18" to 3' deep and flowing about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile per hour. Stream about 20 miles long according to local advises. We ascended about two miles and saw about 50 fish in pools along the shore and one small plot was dug up from spawners. Owing to shifting sands little spawning is possible as far as we ascended.

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August 14. (Continued).

Litnik Creek, - Metrofornia Bay -

This creek is about one mile long and while fair size near the mouth gradually becomes smaller as we ascend and when about three fourths of a mile up, its size is about 12 feet wide with a light flow of from 6 inches to 8 inches of water.

Fish were noted beginning in deep pools about one-fourth mile from the mouth and estimated about 1,500 fish in stream. 5% possible capacity. Species:- Humps 97%, and chums 3%, all spawning side by side.

The banks were well tramped by bears.